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FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING COMMITTEE

**Testimony in Support of SB 916**

**An Act Authorizing Civil Penalties for the Faulty, Careless or Negligent Application of Pesticides**

**and**

**Testimony in Support of HB 6440**

**An Act Concerning Municipalities and the Application of Lawn Care Pesticides**

**Environment Committee**

**February 25, 2013**

Senator Meyer, Representative Gentile, Senator Chapin, Representative Shaban and members of the Environment Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 916 and HB 6440, both of which pertain to the regulation of the application of pesticides.

We've been using pesticides on our lawns, golf courses and public spaces for generations. But we have a much better understanding of the consequences of such widespread use than we did years ago. There will be many people testifying here today who are much more well-versed on the science of pesticides, but we all know about the potential carcinogenic, endocrine and even genetic effects of pesticides exposure, particularly to children and pets.

SB 916 and HB 6440 seek to mitigate such effects by empowering communities to regulate pesticide use to a more significant degree than in current law. HB 6440 will assure that municipalities can take strong action – if they choose – to impose restrictions on pesticides which go further than DEEP's regulations. This is essential for two reasons: we all acknowledge that DEEP lacks the resources to promise consistent enforcement, and many towns are served by aquifers and other critical groundwater infrastructures which are particularly vulnerable to pesticide contamination. Therefore, giving municipalities the right to protect those critical water resources is essential.

These bills and others like them reflect our growing recognition of how harmful pesticides can be to our communities. I urge the committee to take decisive action in preserving Connecticut's health and safety. Thank you.